

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-55 are pending in this application. Claims 1-54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over U.S. patent 6,658,400 to Perell et al. (herein "Perell").

With respect to the above-noted rejection, applicants again note the rejection has not considered claim 55, which was added in a previous amendment. Applicants request that any subsequent Office Action fully consider claim 55.

Addressing now the rejection of claims 1-54 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Perell, that rejection is traversed by the present response.

Applicants note that the present application is based on and claims priority to Japanese Priority Documents 11-341288 filed on November 30, 1999 and 11-341289 filed on November 30, 1999. Filed with the present response are those priority documents and certified translations of those documents. By virtue of the submission of such priority documents and the certified translations thereof, applicants respectfully submit that those documents fully support the claimed subject matter and that thereby applicants are entitled to and have perfected that priority date of November 30, 1999 for the present application.

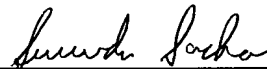
As applicants are entitled to the priority date of November 30, 1999 for the present application, Perell is no longer a valid reference against the pending claims. More particularly, Perell has as an earliest effective filing date December 4, 1999 based on provisional application 60/169,040. Thus, even if that provisional application supports the disclosure in Perell, Perell does not have a valid filing date prior to applicants perfected priority date of November 30, 1999. Thus, Perell is not properly applicable against the pending claims.

Therefore, the only outstanding rejection in the present application is obviated by the present response.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
GJM/SNS:aif

I:\ATTY\SNS\200133US-AM.DOC

Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423